

associating the customer identification data received by the reader with a transaction at the activated dispenser, whereupon the transaction at the activated dispenser is permitted and charged to the customer according to the customer identification data.

56. (AMENDED) A fuel dispensing method with radio frequency customer identification capabilities for charging a customer for sales transacted by the customer, the method comprising:

determining whether a vehicle-mounted transponder containing customer identification data is within a vehicle fueling range of a dispenser, the dispenser requiring activation by the customer to initiate a transaction and including a reader associated therewith for emitting from a first antenna radio frequency signals within the vehicle fueling range, and for receiving customer identification data from the transponder responsive to the emitted radio frequency signals received by the transponder;

determining whether a hand-held transponder containing customer identification data is within a close range of the dispenser, the close range being smaller than the vehicle fueling range, the reader including a second antenna for emitting radio frequency signals within the close range, and for receiving customer identification data from the transponder responsive to the emitted radio frequency signals received by the transponder; and

associating the customer identification data received by the reader from either the vehicle-mounted transponder or the hand-held transponder with a transaction at the dispenser, whereupon the transaction at the dispenser is permitted and charged to the customer according to the customer identification data; and

providing an in-range indication to the customer when a vehicle-mounted transponder is within the vehicle fueling range or a hand-held transponder is within the close range.

57. (AMENDED) [The method of claim 56 further comprising:]

A fuel dispensing method with radio frequency customer identification capabilities for charging a customer for sales transacted by the customer, the method comprising:

determining whether a vehicle-mounted transponder containing customer identification data is within a vehicle fueling range of a dispenser, the dispenser requiring activation by the customer to initiate a transaction and including a reader associated